



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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ON-LINE AUCTIONEER IS CONVICTED BY SAN DIEGO JURY FOR THEFT

San Diego, CA (March 15, 2001) — A San Diego man who promised to sell computer and electronic items over the Internet and did not deliver the goods is now facing time in jail after being convicted of two counts of petty theft and two counts of violating California's law dealing with Internet sales.

In San Diego Superior Court this week, a jury found Manuchehr Kesheh Riazati guilty of misdemeanor charges filed by the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit following an investigation by the San Diego Police Department and eBay security personnel.

Investigators discovered that in the fall of 1999, bidders tried to purchase computer and electronic items from the defendant, operating on eBay under the user I.D. "manush2000." Investigators learned that the defendant contacted the high bidders and instructed them to send cashier's checks or money orders to an address in San Diego. He promised to ship the items upon receipt of payment. No items were delivered. The total loss to the victims was over \$2500. One victim traveled from Marysville, California and another from National City, Michigan to testify in the case. Their travel expenses were covered by a special trust fund of the California District Attorney's Association.

The defendant now faces sentencing on April 5, 2001 before San Diego Superior Court Judge Cynthia Bashant.

"The victims in this case stretched all over the country, but law enforcement's reach was sufficient to bring this offender to justice," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. "This cooperative effort involved the San Diego City Attorney's Office, the San Diego Police Department, and eBay. This conviction serves notice that the Internet is not a safe haven for would-be thieves."

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